

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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February 23, 2016

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez Secretary of Labor Department of Labor 200 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

We are writing to express our support of Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services' "Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release-2" grant application to fund a specialized Jail-Based Job Center within the women's jail of Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services (CSS) oversees the administration and implementation of public workforce development one-stop centers, known as Los Angeles County America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs). CSS administers one of seven local workforce development boards in Los Angeles County, serving 58 cities and 151 unincorporated areas, with membership appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

If funded by this grant, CSS will establish a "Women's Jail-Based Job Center" (WJBJC) to provide in-custody job placement and gender-specific services to 150 female inmates as they prepare for employment and community reentry. Participants will gain skills that will help them compete for careers within high growth industries. Upon release from custody, participants will be linked to the County's system of community-based AJCCs, which will continue to provide them with training and job placement services in the community.

Los Angeles County is committed to reducing recidivism by improving reentry practices and increasing employment opportunities for former offenders. We commend the Department of Labor for your leadership in promoting these goals and look forward to the opportunity to partner with your Department on the WJBJC proposal. The WJBJC addresses a critical need for gender-specific services, and it will fully complement a jail-based job center already in process to serve male inmates in our County.

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To that end, we, the Board of Supervisors, affirm our support for Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services' grant application and respectfully urge you to award these funds to provide female offenders in Los Angeles County with critical services that will aid in their successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and help build our communities.

Your consideration of this important request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

HILDA L. SOLIS

Chair of the Board

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